

Remarks

Claims 1-13 and 17-23 were pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 9, 10, 18, and 21 have been amended; claims 3, 17, and 20 have been canceled; and new claims 27 and 28 have been added. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1, 2, 4-13, 18, 19, 21-23, 27, and 28 will be before the Examiner. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 9, and 18 have been amended above in accord with the Examiner's suggestions to overcome the objections set forth at pages 2-3 of the Office Action. Applicants are grateful for the Examiner's suggestions and hereby respectfully request reconsideration.

In response to the §112, second paragraph rejection of claims 10 and 17 set forth at page 3 of the Office Action, Applicants have amended those claims in accord with the Examiner's suggestions, and for which they hereby express their gratitude. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants traverse the §102(a)(b) rejections of claims 1-10, 12, and 17-22 set forth at pages 3-4 of the Office Action. As part of their traversal, Applicants submit herewith an extract of IEEE Xplore demonstrating that the Sensor (2003), Proceedings of IEEE publication including the Lehmann *et al.* disclosure (pgs. 157-161) that is cited in support of this rejection was published on 22-24 October 2003, nine months after the priority date of this application. Accordingly, the cited reference is not available as prior art. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Next, claims 18-23 stand rejected under §102(b) as anticipated by Jones '465 and Jones '602. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. The Jones publications are directed to conventional injectors which are not configured for a miniaturized gas chromatography module, and which themselves are not miniaturized at all. Thus, specific features which hinder the skilled person to adapt the technology disclosed in Jones for miniaturized gas chromatography modules and miniaturized injectors therefore, as now claimed in claims 1 and 18, must be considered. In particular, the methods of manufacturing such miniaturized injectors do not allow for a "clad" as this would provide for a thickness which is far too high for a miniaturized device. Thus, the fact that Jones only discloses such a "clad" (see US 3,916,465, col. 5, l. 20-25), can not be transferred into a miniaturized device. Furthermore, the particular claim element of the layer, and the specific

limitation that it be a plasma-polymerized layer, should be considered as a point of novelty. None of the cited references mentions a plasma-polymerized layer or the manufacturing of such a layer by plasma-polymerization. None of the cited references suggests such a layer. Accordingly, in view of the foregoing Applicants respectfully request this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants next respectfully request reconsideration of the §103(a) rejection of claims 1-4, 6-13, and 17 over Jones '465 or '602 in view of Lehmann *et al.* set forth at pages 5-7 of the Office Action. The shortcomings of the Jones references have been mentioned above. None of the references mentions a "plasma-polymerized layer" as specified in the currently pending claims. Further, there is no suggestion to provide such a layer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Finally, claim 5 stands rejected under §103(a) over Jones'465 or 602 in view of Lehmann *et al.* (2001) and further in view of in view of Lehmann *et al.* (2000). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. The shortcomings of the Jones references and Lehmann (2001) have been discussed above. Claim 5, by virtue of its dependency includes the limitation of a "plasma polymerized layer." Lehmann (2000) neither discloses such an element nor provides motivation to incorporate such an element. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments to the claims, Applicants believe that all claims as currently pending are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account 19-0065.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Extract of IEEE Xplore regarding Sensor (2003), Proceedings of IEEE publication